plastic materials etc. other commodities, manmade filament/spun yarn (incl. waste), other textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, iron and steel, vegetable oils fixed (edible), pearls, precious/semi precious stones and electrical machinery except electronic and the major items which India exports to Thailand are gem and jewellery, oil meals, primary and semi-finished iron and steel, inorganic/organic/agro chemicals, marine products, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, machinery and instruments, dyes/intermediates and coal tar chemicals, manufacture of metals and non-ferrous metals.

Rubber Import

743. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decisions to allow rubber import;

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted Government to arrive at such a decision;

(c) whether Government consider to rectify the technical defects crept in the orders of rubber import of safeguard the interest of the rubber cultivators; and

(d) whether Government consider to review the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Import of Natural Rubber has been made free *w.e.f.* 1.4.2001 as part of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions from large number of items for imports. Under the EXIM Policy, exporters are entitled to import inputs duty free for the manufacture of items for export under the Advance Licence Scheme as per the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) fixed for a particular item. Certain restrictions had been put in place for import of Natural Rubber duty free under this scheme. The Public Notices and the Policy Circulars imposing such restrictions have been set aside by the Bombay High Court. The SLP filed by the Government against this order was not admitted by the Supreme Court. As a result, restrictions imposed on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme stand removed.